

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
2022 and 2023 Hartford (Lyman) Lake
Creel Kiosk Report

WBIC 105600

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Introduction

Hartford lake is a 8 acre seepage lake in Waushara county. It has a maximum depth is 27 feet and has a sediment bottom of muck with a slight amount of sand. Because of the overall size and depth of the lake, it supports a multi-layer ecosystem. This allows not only common species like bluegill and largemouth bass to thrive but also supports stocked trout. By examining the lake, we can determine how many trout can be stocked in the lake for anglers to catch and enjoy. While the lake is able to support stocking of trout, there is only one access point available for the public to use.

SURVEY EFFORT

By doing a creel at the parking lot we want to get a better understanding of the anglers that come to Hartford lake. This creel survey mainly focuses on angler effort, what's being targeted, as well as the catch and harvest of each species present.

Methods

During the 2022 and 2023 fishing season, a creel kiosk was set up along the parking lot in order to catch the attention of various anglers. The idea is to have the angler go to the kiosk after they have finished fishing and answer the questions on the form from the box. Once the form was filled out, it would be placed in the drop box attached to the kiosk which would be collected by a creel clerk later.

Today's date: _____ Number of anglers in your party: _____

How long did you fish today (to the nearest quarter hour, 1.25, 2.5, 3.75 etc.): _____ hour(s)

County of Residence?: _____ Out of State : _____

How often do you fish Hartford Lake (Circle 1): 1-5 times/year 6-10 times/year 11-20 times/year More than 20 times/year

What species of fish were you targeting today?: ☐ Rainbow Trout ☐ Bluegill ☐ Black Crappie ☐ Largemouth Bass
☐ Northern Pike ☐ All species ☐ Other specific species: _____

How many fish of each species below did you catch, release, and or harvest today, if any?: Example: 4 catch = 3 release + 1 harvest

	Catch	=	Release	+	Harvest
Rainbow Trout	_____		_____		_____
Brown Trout	_____		_____		_____
Bluegill	_____		_____		_____
Black Crappie	_____		_____		_____
Largemouth Bass	_____		_____		_____
Other: _____	_____		_____		_____

Do you like or dislike the current yellow trout regulation for Hartford Lake?: ☐ Like ☐ Dislike

Describe any other regulation changes you would like to see for Hartford Lake: _____

Additional Comments: _____


RAINBOW TROUT



Creel Form Sample for Hartford Lake

Results

STOCKED TROUT

The angler's response to the forms showed moderate interest in targeting trout on the lake with a majority of the anglers liking the yellow trout regulation rule with small portion not knowing or answering the question. Anglers caught a total of 72 trout with 18 of them being harvested in 2 years. Overall catch rate was 0.183 fish per hour, while harvest was 0.046 fish per hour. This indicates that it would take an angler 4-5 hours to catch one trout.

BLUEGILL

Anglers showed the highest interest in targeting bluegills during the first couple of months of the fishing season. Having the highest catch at 415 fish with 146 of them being harvested. The catch rate is 1.055 fish per hour and 0.371 fish per hour for harvest rates. This indicates that it would take an angler 1 hour to catch a bluegill.

LARGEMOUTH BASS

Anglers showed a high interest in targeting largemouth bass during the first couple of months of the fishing season. Catch was 274 with only 3 bass being harvested over the two fishing seasons. The catch rate was shown to be 0.697 fish per hour with 0.008 fish per hour harvested. This indicates that it takes a little under 2 hours to catch a largemouth bass.

BLACK CRAPPIE

Anglers showed hardly any interest in targeting black crappies. Catch was only 1 with no harvest within two fishing seasons. The overall catch rate is 0.003 fish per hour with harvest being 0 fish per hour. This could be due to most anglers fishing the shorelines and not casting in deeper waters.

NORTHERN PIKE

Anglers showed the least interest in targeting northern pike. While catch is at 8 fish, only two pike were harvest in two fishing seasons. The catch rate is also very low, being 0.02 fish per hour as well as harvest being 0.005 fish per hour. This could be due to the high effort put into catching largemouth bass and anglers catching pike instead since there share the same habitat.

Table 1: Total Responses for Each Question and Angler Effort

Hartford Lake Year	Total Sheets	Total Anglers	Total Hours	Annual Trip (Count)					Angler's Targeting (Sheet Count)						Yellow Trout Reg. (Sheets)		
				1-5	6-10	11-20	20+	Unknown	Trout	Bluegill	Black Crappie	Largemouth Bass	Northern Pike	All	Like	Dislike	Unknown
2022	41	69	194	23	6	6	3	3	16	23	4	8	6	11	29	3	9
2023	38	71	199.25	23	4	4	5	2	18	14	3	10	4	6	18	5	15
Total	79	140	393.25	46	10	10	8	5	34	37	7	18	10	17	47	8	24

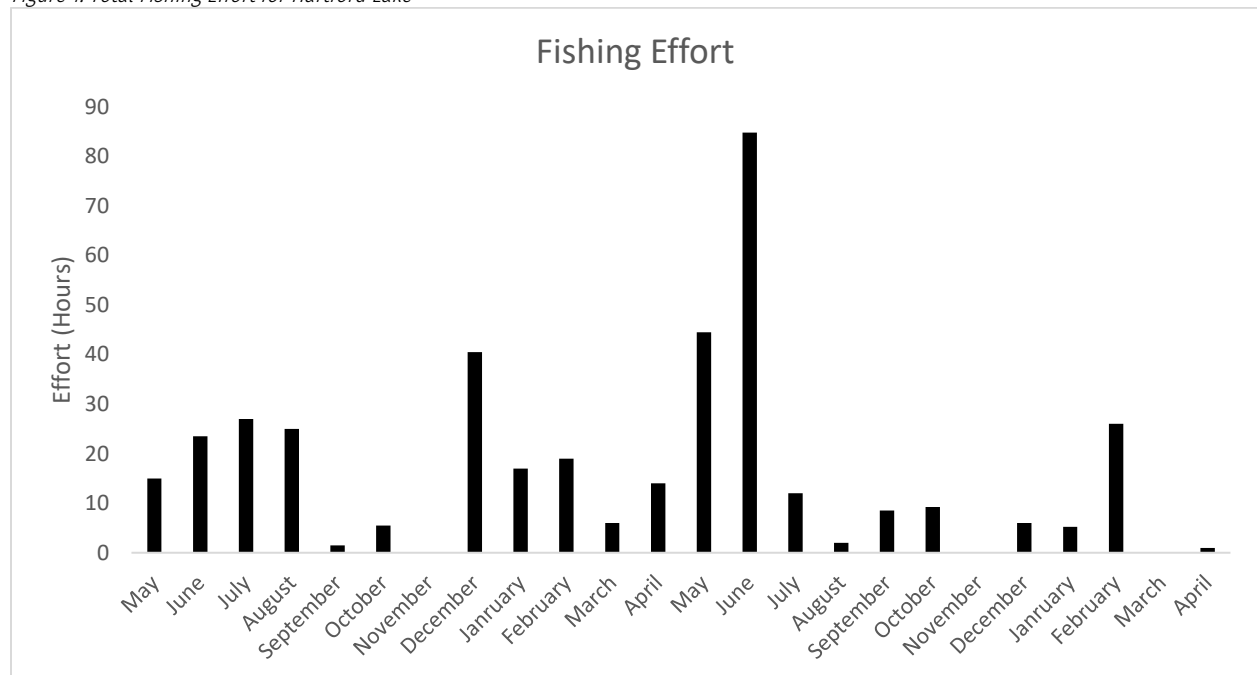
Table 2: Total Catch and Harvest

Hartford Lake Year	Fish Caught					Fish Harvested				
	Trout	Bluegill	Largemouth Bass	Black Crappie	Northern Pike	Trout	Bluegill	Largemouth Bass	Black Crappie	Northern Pike
2022	30	207	173	0	3	8	50	0	0	0
2023	42	208	101	1	5	10	96	3	0	2
Total	72	415	274	1	8	18	146	3	0	2

Table 3: Total Catch Rate and Harvest Rate

Hartford Lake Year	Catch Rate (fish/hr)					Harvested Rate (fish/hr)				
	Trout	Bluegill	Largemouth Bass	Black Crappie	Northern Pike	Trout	Bluegill	Largemouth Bass	Black Crappie	Northern Pike
2022	0.155	1.067	0.892	0	0.015	0.041	0.258	0	0	0
2023	0.211	1.044	0.507	0.005	0.025	0.050	0.482	0.015	0	0.010
Total	0.183	1.055	0.697	0.003	0.020	0.046	0.371	0.008	0	0.005

Figure 1: Total Fishing Effort for Hartford Lake



Discussion

From the responses the anglers gave, most of the effort is being put toward catching bluegill, largemouth bass, and stocked trout. Anglers showed an even amount of effort between spring, summer, and winter months for bluegill and trout. Overall, the fishing effort is significantly high on Hartford lake with a little under 400 hours being put into the lake for two fishing seasons on anglers that visit the lake. This is also proven out in our annual trip calculations where 23 fishing parties visited the lake between 1-5 times per year with over four parties visit 6-10 times.

Stocking History

Year	Species	Age Class	Number Fish Stocked	Avg Fish Length In
2024	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	1,310	10
2024	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	825	9
2023	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	1,014	8
2023	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	1,125	9
2022	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	2,017	9
2022	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	1,639	8.6
2021	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	2,000	8.7
2021	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	2,013	8.6
2020	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	729	8.7
2019	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	552	8.9
2019	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	512	10.3
2019	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	512	10.3
2018	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	406	9.1
2018	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	419	10
2017	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	386	9.6
2017	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	402	9.1
2016	BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	220	11.9
2015	RAINBOW TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	1,663	6.3
2014	BROWN TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	1,397	5.8
2014	BROWN TROUT	ADULT (BROODSTOCK)	49	25.5
2014	RAINBOW TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	1,248	6.3
2014	RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	400	9.4
2012	RAINBOW TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	1,250	6.2
2012	BROWN TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	1,185	5.2